

PROPOSAL 213

5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery.

Repeal the Cook Inlet Area personal use clam fishery, as follows:

5 AAC 77.518 is repealed:

5 AAC 77.518. Personal use clam fishery. Repealed / /2018. [IN THE PERSONAL USE TAKING OF CLAMS

- (1) THERE IS NO CLOSED SEASON;
- (2) THERE ARE NO BAG, POSSESSION, OR SIZE LIMITS FOR CLAMS, EXCEPT THAT
 - (A) FROM THE MOUTH OF THE KENAI RIVER TO THE SOUTHERNMOST TIP OF THE HOMER SPIT, THE BAG LIMIT FOR RAZOR CLAMS IS THE FIRST 60 CLAMS HARVESTED AND THE POSSESSION LIMIT IS 120 CLAMS;
 - (B) THE COMBINED BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT FOR LITTLENECK CLAMS AND BUTTER CLAMS IS 80 CLAMS AND THE MINIMUM SIZE FOR LITTLENECK CLAMS IS ONE AND ONE-HALF INCHES IN LENGTH ACROSS THE WIDEST PART OF THE SHELL; AND FOR BUTTER CLAMS IS TWO AND ONE-HALF INCHES IN LENGTH ACROSS THE WIDEST PART OF THE SHELL;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The personal use fishing regulations are identical to sport fishing regulations for the razor and hardshell clam sport fisheries. Historically, management actions applied to the sport fishery are duplicated for the personal use fisheries. Since 1977, the annual harvest of razor and hardshell clams and annual effort in these fisheries has been estimated using the Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS). The SWHS annual estimates do not distinguish between personal use and sport diggers; rather estimates reflect combined effort and harvest for both groups. The suggested change would reduce redundancy, simplify the codified regulations, and accurately reflect the management of these fisheries.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-119)
